

Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church
North side of River Rd. (LR45012),
approximately 4 miles northeast
of Shawnee on Delaware
Shawnee on Delaware vicinity,
Middle Smithfield Township
Monroe County
Pennsylvania

HABS No. PA-1136

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PA,
45-SHAWD.V
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PHOTOGRAPHS

HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Reduced Copies of Measured Drawings

Historic American Buildings Survey
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20243

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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

HABS No. PA-1136

ZION EVANGELICAL LUTHERN CHURCH

Location:

Located north side of River Rd. (LR45012), .9 miles northeast of township line, approximately 4 miles northeast of Shawnee on Delaware, in Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area, Shawnee on Delaware vicinity, Middle Smithfield Township, Monroe County, Pennsylvania.

USGS Bushkill Quadrangle, Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates: 18.496800.4542960.

Present Owner:

United States Government.

Present Use:

Church.

Significance:

A good example of simple rural use of Greek Revival proportions. The mid-nineteenth century church, built of locally baked brick, served the local Lutheran and German Reformed Congregations.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: 1851. Cornerstone laid June 16, 1851; finished in the fall of that year.
2. Original and subsequent owner: This is an incomplete chain of title found in the records of the Monroe County Court House, Stroudsburg, Pa.

1847 Deed: 6 Dec. 1847
Deed Book vol. 4, p. 166
John M. Michael Jr. et. ux.
to
George M. Michael

Recorded 17 May 1848

1866 Deed: 6 May 1866
Deed Book vol. 14, p. 153
George M. Michael
to

Recorded 12 June 1866

Samuel Michael, John Michael and Henry Strunk, Trustees of the Lutheran and German Reformed Church in Middle Smithfield. 100 sq. perches with the church building standing on it.

3. Builder, contractor, suppliers: Cornelius Starner burned the brick for the building. While John Kyte constructed the major

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portion of the church, the church was completed with the aid of the parishioners. The slate was supplied by Samuel Taylor of Slateford, Pa. through his agent, Charles Kennedy.

4. Alterations and additions: In 1903 the church was remodeled to conform to a "more churchly style of architecture": the central, colonial style pulpit with sounding board was replaced by the altar recess, the pulpit and lectern. The cement basement floor and the stairway from the basement to the chancel were also installed at this time.

In 1932, the heating system was modernized: a pipeless furnace replaced two stoves. The old chimney has been removed more recently from the center of the roof.

The last set of alterations was in 1951 when electric lights were installed and oil replaced wood in the pipeless furnace.

B. Historical Events and Persons Connected with the Structure:

Before 1851 five denominations jointly used an old stone church at Shawnee. In 1851 the Lutheran and (German) Reformed Congregations began services in the new "Zion's Evangelical Lutheran and Reformed Church." No Reformed services were ever held, and the few members of that denomination soon united with the Lutherans.

C. Bibliography:

1. Primary and unpublished sources:

- a. Treasurer's Notes from Building Committee, Zion's Church, (John Smith, Treas.), in possession of Monroe County Historical Society, Stroudsburg, Pa.

2. Secondary and published sources:

- a. "100th Anniversary of Zion Lutheran Church, Middle Smithfield, Pennsylvania; 200th Anniversary of the Smithfield Lutheran Congregation," Centennial Booklet, June 1951.

D. Likely sources not yet investigated:

- a. "The General Church Book of the Lower Smithfield Lutheran and Reformed Congregations in Northampton County, Pa."--for earlier history of the congregation.

Prepared by William C. Badger
Historian
Historic American
Buildings Survey
August 3, 1970

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural Statement: The simple brick church, built in an area which has traditionally built with stone, exemplifies the rural use of Greek Revival style and proportion.
2. Condition of fabric: Good, appears structurally sound.

B. Description of exterior:

1. Over-all dimensions: The single story structure with a choir loft measures 33'-2" (three bay front) x 44'-11" (three bay) excluding a 5'-1" x 11'-1" rectangular apse on the southeast elevation.
2. Foundation: Rubble stone, partially covered with stucco.
3. Wall construction, finish and color: Red brick load bearing walls. The northeast elevation has been painted red.
4. Structural system, framing: Floor joists are of sawn wood, laid across a large sawn girder running the length of the building. The building has eleven through-bolts placed laterally at the floor line and above ceiling. There are three bolts running transversely through the gables.
5. Porches, stoops: Gray slate stoop at entrance.
6. Chimneys: A newer brick chimney is located on the exterior east end next to the north side of the apse.
7. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and doors: Access to the front of the church is through a pair of four-panel wooden doors. There is a plank door on the south side ground level for access into the basement.
 - b. Windows and shutters: There are ten twenty-over-twenty-light sash windows: two on the northwest (front) elevation, three on each of the side elevations, and two that flank the apse on the rear elevation. These openings are spanned by wood lintels painted white. In the apse, six-over-six-light sash windows pierce the side walls. In the cellar, there is a four-over-four-light and six-over-six-light window.

8. Roof:

- a. Shape, covering: The simple pitch gable roof is covered with gray slates with the gable end facing northwest (front elevation).

The apse is covered by a hipped roof covered with gray slates.

- b. Cornice, eaves: Boxed cornice with simple entablature along sides and cornice returns.

9. Inscriptions: Over the entrance door, "Zions Evangelical Lutheran Church 1851" is enscribed in a datestone.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plans:

- a. first floor: The interior can be viewed as three areas: the narthex, entered through the center door, has two semi enclosed stairways at the ends, leading to the chair loft; the nave which includes the balcony over the narthex, is a large open space delineated by two rows of pews; and the small raised alter in the apse.
- b. Cellar: The partial cellar extends approximately one-third of the foundation of the church.

2. Stairways: Two semi-enclosed, semi-winding stairs rise to the loft. A wood stair at the chancel descends to the cellar.

3. Flooring: The wood plank floor is fastened with machine-cut nails.

4. Wall and ceiling finish: The walls are plastered, as are the ceilings of the narthex and the soffit of the balcony. The ceilings of the chancel and nave are cove, and covered with embossed sheet metal.

5. Doorways and doors: The simple wood trim throughout the church is painted dark brown.

6. Decorative features and trim: The five-sided pulpit of pine and the alter of oak both contain gothic arch designs. The pews are painted dark brown with white scroll tops.

D. Site:

1. General setting and orientation: The northwest (front) elevation faces the road at grade level. The land slopes away to the rear steeply so that church can be seen well above River Road.

Prepared by Robert C. Giebner
Project Supervisor
Historic American
Buildings Survey
July 1967
and
Wesley Shank and
William C. Badger
Project Historian
Historic American
Buildings Survey
July 1970.

PART III. PROJECT INFORMATION

This project was undertaken by the Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) in cooperation with the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area, supervised by the National Park Service and funded by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The project, which extended from 1967 to 1971, was under the general direction of James C. Massey, Chief of HABS. This structure was measured and drawn in the summer of 1967 under the direction of Robert C. Giebner (University of Arizona), Project Supervisor, by student assistant architects David L. Bouse (University of Nebraska), William L. McQueen (University of Illinois) and Dennis E. Walo (Texas A & M University) in the HABS field office at Columbia, New Jersey in the project area of the Tocks Island Reservoir and the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area. The historical data was written by William C. Badger, project historian in 1970. The written data was edited for transmittal to the Library of Congress in the summer of 1980 by Kent R. Newell of the HABS staff. The photographs were taken by George Eisenman in 1967.